BRIGHT SKIES AND A HAPPY CITY.

The Day in the Streets, in the Churches and in the Institutions.

THE POOR REMEMBERED.

Observance of the Festival Outside the City.

#### MUSIC AND FEASTING.

Santa Claus Visits the Prisons, Hospitals and Schools.

When the sun rose, chasing night into the past, old-Santa Claus gathered up his skirts and hurried to the couch of Time to take his yearly notes. Almost with the sun that was to light the day of the birth of Christ, the myriad votaries of the grizzly king of good cheer jumped from their beds and rushed to the mysterious stockings to see what the King had sent them. Then such a scene began as is rarely seen in any household than once a year—on Christmas The happy owners of the well filled stockings rushed to display the liberality of the rod of gifts, and joy and laughter, greetings and merriment took possession of many houses. Yesterday's sun was in graceful keeping with the general features of the time. The day was in every sense a glorious one. All that could be desired of the weather it promised and gave, and all the people who could be away from home were out to enjoy it. As the morning wore on the streets commenced to show signs of the holiday life that was already reigning in such num-bers of homes. The churches were early filled, them until long after midday. Closed stores and a general cessation from labor gave a Sabbath sanctity and reserve to the day outside, very different from the Christmas echoes of the pre-

BUNDLES AND BASKETS

seemed to have proclaimed the beginning of the fete throughout the city-in the markets, the stores, the squares, the streets and the avenues. They were everywhere; on men's shoulders, on their backs and in their hands; in shops, in in coaches, in carts in wheelbarrows; women carried them and children struggled beneath the weight of festival toys. They were of every shape and size and quality. They were long and short, thick and thin, round and square. They contained all sorts of things, and all the things were Christmas presents-presents for boys and girls, presents for youths and maidens, presents for men and women, and heaps of presents for grandfathers and grandmothers. They were then made up in shops and opened yesterday in homes. Their contents were gatheret by children, lovers, sweethearts, husbands, wives and, even batchelors. Scores of people who scarce had time then to look at their own in the general rush tied up bundles or crammed more things into already bursting baskets for others. Those for whom they were being tied up and crammed looked on from outside the counters in glad anticipation of the pleasure they would give to those for whom they were intended. They spoke of every gentle feeling centred in the human heart. Love was bound up in them for fathers, mothers, relatives. Desires to give delight were woven in with the donkey carts and wagons, with the tambournes and fiddles, with the humming tops and drums, with the easy chairs and tables, and with

PICTURES AND PIANOS. they were then enwrapt with gratitude and hope, reverence and joy, affection and esteem, admiration and respect, and opened yesterday with the corresponding sentiments enhanced a thousand fold in the big hearts of the little recipients. Something good natured flad kind and holy and hearty rose out of them when they were undone that filled the air as well as the hearts of all who crowded round to investigate their mysteries. Christmas day and Christmas time and Christmas goodness and Christmas and christmas goodness and Christmas cheer, was so intense in them that they were almost running through the strings and paper. Unbounded in her delight the child went round to show what was in her parcel to every one and make them sharers in her nappiness. The usided flushed and the white-naired lady by the fire went back in memory to the days when she was a child and maiden. As she looked at the last gift from an evergiving hand the eyes dimming beneath the crash of years grew oright and moist and they saw beside it the flist gift of the timo lover and the many others that had come with each succeeding Christmas, as times rolled on with the lives of both. She remembered when the head now white as her own was young and black like many around her, and she thought, too, of a hundred gifts that had been sent to her, which were yet in the future for them. The frusting love and steady falts of which cach Christmas brought new proof were present to her mind, and she looked happing on those about cipients. Something good natured and kind and The trusting love and steady faith of which each Unrishmas brought new proof were present to her mind, and she looked happily on those about her who were gifts to him as well as her, and she highly blessed the hand that sent them all. It was as pleasant to see and think on those who opened the bundles yesterday—Whether they were sent by Santa Claus or somebody e.se more tangible—as it was to look on those who sent or brought them the night before the young mab standing before the treasures of a shop window and wondering what he would get, and trying to choose between what he would get, and trying to choose between what he would gat what he could, tells as

and wondering what he would get, and trying to choose between what he would and what he could, tells as

TRUE A STORY

of the time as the head of the family at the head of the board and all the happy young heads around it nervously impatient to attack the heaped up viands. The turkeys and geese and chickens that nad caused such a studing of baskets on thirstmas. Eve were yesterday set out stuffed in turn upon the tables, and soon after lots of little boys and girls were in a similar condition with their Christmas dinners. The effect was not confined to the boys and girls either. More than one of the casy-holng, satisfied gentlemen who sat with such dignity at the head of the table, whether in dress coats or shift sleeves, left obliged to coniess to the old lady sliority after the feast was over that her plum pudding was of such excellent quality that he was tempted beyond his comitorable capacity. Of course the old lady suggested a nip of the "sixty-one" in the cellar as a settler, and the old gentleman felt bound to comply with a direction of so excellent a nature and try the effect of such a filmely remedy. But while the great fires biazed in the rich man's house, and the monster decorated rounds of beef and turkeys and geese and chicken made his lable grean with their weight and quantity, and the "sixty-one" howes and the punch now is seamed, and wives and maidens were kissed beneam the missietoe, the poor were not lorgotten. They, too, were treated to a Christmas. The rich man had spared from his abundance that the hard pressure of poverty may be for the moment raised from the afflicted, and une totler shared his little with them.

Those who were poor by chance, those who were

raised from the amicied, and the toiler shared his little with them.

Those who were poor by chance, those who were poor by age, those who were poor by a superior will and those who were poor be as superior will and those who were poor be as superior will and those who were poor be as superior will and those who were poor be as superior will and those who were all provided for and charitable hands dealt out to them the things contributed for their Christmass maker. The Christmas baskets and the Christmas bundles or Christmas Eve which were bought and sold, carried and sent by a rushing, pushing, bushing, bushing, bushing, bushing, bushing, bushing, bushing, bushing, bushing, bushing the season. They began the carnival of Christmas that was justered in the people's faces coming straight up from their hearts, that was in their voice and manner, that was playing in their pariors, that was sung of in their churches, that was coursing through the nir.

## ST. THOMAS' CHURCH.

At St. Thomas' church, corner Fifth avenue and Firty-third street, the arrangements for the celebration of the natal day of the Redeemer were made upon a scale of magnificence and granden anusual even with the well known liberality of the congregation. The pulpit, the chancel, and, the whole interior of the church was procusely decorated with garlands of evergreen and natural flowers. The music was grand and inspiring, aithough naturally of a joyous charac-

ter, and the courch was crowded to excess from haps curiosity may have had something to do with the latter lact, as it was understood that King Kalakana had signified his acceptance of an invitation to attend service. At all events those of the congregation who went from motives of curiosity were not disappointed, as shortly atter eleven oclock the King and party, escorted by Aidermen Gloo, Koom and Kehr and Assistant Alderman Brucks, were conducted to seats in the centre alsie, which had been reserved for them. The celebration for the day was inaugurated with chimes by Mr. Toulman at six A. M. There was a "sunrise service" at seven oclock, with collects and Christmas carois, and the special grand service at eleven A. M. The programme of the music at the eleven oclock service, which was infully carried out, was as follows:—Processional, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Mendelssohn; "Vente," str. tours, Gregorial; "To Deum Laudamus," anthem in F. major, Aifred H. Pease; "Benedictus," anthem in G. major, G. W. Warren; carristion, "Glory, of God in the Highest." Mozart; offetory, "Heace on Earth, Good Will to Men," Goundo (pastorate for solt, quarted, chorus and harp obligato); ante-communion, "Angels from Realms of Glory," G. W. Warren (with an especial part for a Carristo of twenty-five bells; "Lee Sanctus," Besthoven; Hunn, "Goundo, The miscondition of the Highest, "House the Hunn," Goundo, "The miscondition of the Hunger, solt objects, "Lee Sanctus," Besthoven; Hunn, "Goundo, The miscondition of the Hunger, solt objects, "Lee Sanctus," Besthoven; Hunn, "Goundo, "The miscondition of the Hunn, Guidor, "Hunn," Goundo, "The miscondition of the Hunn, "Guidor, "Hunn," Goundo, "The miscondition of the hunner of the miscondition of the contrasted the miscondition of Mr. George W. Warren, the organis, who was assisted by Mrs. P. D. Guisger, solt objects, and the first hunner of the miscondition of the form of the Goorge W. Warren, the organist, who was assisted by Mrs. P. D. Guisger, solt objects, and the first hunner of the hunner of the

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL. The services at the Cathedral yesterday were very impressive. The festival of Christmas being one of the greatest in the Church of course every-thing was done that could be done tastefully in the way of decoration to make the interior of the sacred edifice wear an aspect of more than usual grandeur. No attempt had been made at decorating the main body of the building, but the grand alter was most beautifully adorned. Not only was the altar itself ablaze with a thousand lights, but the walls of the sanctuary were bung with wreaths of evergreens, and from their topmost height lighted tapers threw down upon the rica gold clota which hung in glittering folds from the stand where the candelabras were ranged a flood of light that was perjectly bewildering. The side altars, too, were neatly decorated and rendered bright and beautiful by the numerous lighted cancles which were placed in clusters on either side of the statues.

There was a pontifical mass, the celebrant being Archbishop McCloskey, Rev. Fathers Kane and McNamee acting as deacon and sub-deacon re-spectively. The Archbishop and the deacon and deacon, as well as the Vicar General and the other priests, were attired in rich vestments that are worn only on the occasion of great lesitvals.

The musical part of the services was superb. The mass sung was the Messe bolennelle, "St. Cecilia." by Gounod. Mr. Gusfavus Schmitz presided at the organ and there was a chorus of forty voices. The "Veni Creator," just previous to the sermon, was sung by Mrs. Elicatich, and at the Gradual the "Adeste Fideles" was sung with much Gradual the "Adeste Fideles" was sung with much expression by Mrs. Gles, who also sand Chern-bin's "O, Jesu Redemptor." Mrs. Grozz sang "O Jesu Mi." The most attractive parts of the miss sung were the "Gloria." soprano solo with chorus accompaniment. The "Et incarnatus" terzetto and enorus was splendidly rendered, as was the "Aguus Dey"—teuor and soprano solos and chorus. From beginning to end the rendering of this mass was magnificent.

THE SERMON.

solos and chorus. From beginning to end the rendering of this mass was magnificent.

The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Father Shea, S. J. The reverend gentleman took for his text, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son," &c. The discourse was quite brief. God, the Father, he said was infinite power, sovereign, independent. He said that nothing could in any way either add to or take from His happiness; for, being infinite, from Him proceeded every thing that ever was or is. Nothing could enter into existence without His permission. He then spoke of the creation of man, arguing that man was brought into the world through God's love for him, and then pointed out how ever after He had, as an ev-dence of that love, though man had become a rebel and deserved to be destroyed because of his sink, given him His only Son. God, he said, was infinite goodness as well as infinite justice. His love was a love of action, not a mere love of words, like our own was as a general rule. He had not only, been patient with man, but had showered blessings upon him even when he deserved wrath and destruction; and when he dissend His Son to us as a teacher as one after whom we might regulate our own lives, He sent Him in the most attractive form, in that of

the most attractive form, in that of A LITTLE CHILD.

He might have sent Him as an avenger, to crush out and annihilate; but His great love for man made him do otherwise. The reverend gentleman then showed how ungrateful men were for all that God in his mercy and goodness had done for them, and was daily doing for them, and how necessary it was that we should, in the midst of the bustle and excitement of the world, think more than we do of His goodness and act accordingly; for God gave every one of us the grace we stood in need of the save our souls. We stood in need of thim, but though He did not need us, He was ever ready to help us, to give as courage and syrength. If we lost our souls it would be through our own fault and not that of God, who wished that the sinner might be saved rather than lost.

## ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

The congregation who worship in St. Stephen's accepted resterday with joy and alacrity the church's Christmas invitation, "Adeste Fideles" (be present, ye faithful). At half-past four o'clock the morning solemn high mass was celebrated by the Rev. Dr. McGlynn, assisted by the Rev. Father Macauley as deacon, and the Rev. Father Byron as sub-deacon, in presence of more than 5.000 men and women, assembled to join in "the Song of the Angels," "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," &c., and thus do fitting honor to the birthday of redemption. While the high mass was being sung by Dr. McGlynn in the church three low masses were said by the Rev. Father Tissot, S. J., in the basement chapel, at which assisted large congregations. The Rev. Father Byron celebrated, at half-past nine o'clock A. M., a missa cantata for the children of the parish, of whom about 3,500 were present. In all seventeen masses were celerated jesterday in this church, at which no lewer than 35,000 assisted, and of these about 4,000 re-

ceived holy communion.

The last high mass was sung by the Rev. Father McCready, with the Rev. Fathers Byron and Carroll as deacon and sub-deacon. The entire cere-monial was under the direction of Rev. W. P. Costigan and passed of without the slightest hitch or mishap. spattino's mass was performed in a mishap. Spattino's mass was performed in a carein and artistic manner. The "Kyrie Eierson," a chorus subject of great merit, was interpreted with due feeling and faste. In the "Gioria" the "Domine Beis," a very fibrid soprano solo, and the "qui Tollis," an exquisite trio for fehor, alto and bass, received excellent treatment at the nands of the singers. The "Gentlum non Factum" of the "Credo," a tenor solo, very suggestive of the meaning conveyed in the portentious words,

was well rendered by Mr. Romeyn. The "Agnus Del," a soprano solo. Was done full justice to by Mme. Bredein. The absence of the usual orchestra was compensated for by the finished playing of the organist, Mr. Dauforth.

St. Stepnen's has been called the home of ecclesiastical art, but never did it show to better advantage than yesteriay. The sanctuary was brilliantly illuminated, and the countiess lights displayed to advantage the delicate and magnificent tracings of the beautiful statuettes which fill the niches of the mattle attars. High above the taberback but he grad tidlings of the day, while wreaths and bouquets of the choicest exotics decorated the high attar. On the Virgin's altar were, among other foral devices, two crosses of carnations, reclining on lambs formed of hiles. Within the sanctuary rails was a life-like miniature of the scene at Bethlebem. The pillars of the caurch and balustrades of the galleries were tasteluity decorated with wreaths and evergreens.

After the singing of the first gospel of the last high mass the Rev. Dr. McGlynn delivered a discourse of great power and eloquence on Jesus Christ. He based his argument for the divinity of Christ on the first verses of the Gospel according to St. John, and proved from "the Gospel according to St. John, and proved from "the Golden Gospel" that the divine attributes of eternity, immensity, omninotence and omniscience were predicated of the Word. The Word, the wisdom of the cternal God, was in the beginning—that is to say, existed in eternity. "The Word the wisdom of the cternal God, was in the beginning—that is to say, existed in eternity as applicable to the present generation as to that of which St. John wrote. The only way to escape the reproach is to learn of Him, who was born in a manger, who, as he timself says, was meek and humble of heart, and thus deserve to be called "sons of God."

The vesper service in the afternoon was taken from Asioh and Mercadanate. Donizetti's "Alma Redemptoris" and Danforth's "Tantum Ergo" were given in good

TRINITY CHURCH:

The attendance at the forenoon services in Trinity church was even greater than usus on Christ-mas Day. The tide of people, young and old, that flowed in the direction of this time-honored and cherished sacred edifice manifested in a pointed manner the increasing reverence and attention in which the festival is geld. The tuneful and merey sound of the bells gathered thousands, only a small

sound of the bells gatheredithousands, only a small portion of whom could find entrance within the waits of the church.

The services were conducted on a grand and impressive scale. The body of the church was profusely decorated with evergreens and the altar almost covered with rare and exotic flowers. The sermon preached was listened to with marked attenton. The words of the reverend speaker were directed principally to the lessons that ought to be derived from the almost inconceivable goodness of Almighty God in giving up his only begotten Son to be the Redeemer of mankind. The music, as always is the case in Trinity church on solomn lestivals, was yesterday of a high standard.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH. Solemn high mass was celebrated at St. Francis Xavier's church, Sixteenth street, at nair-past ten yesterday morning, before an immense congrega-

The altars, gallery, facings, pillers and dome were artistically decorated with bouquets of Southern flowers and festoons of evergreens. Thousands of gas jets burned above the nigh artar, in the centre of which was formed a cross, and immediately beneath the dome was a picture of St. Francis Xavier, the great apostle of the Indias. MOZART'S TWELFTH MASS

was ushered in by the organist, Dr. William Berge, with a grand chorus of thirty voices, as the procession of clergymen marched in from the vestry to the sanctuary. The Rev. F. Hudon, S. J., President of St. Francis Xavier's College, officiated as celebrant; Rev. F. Perdier, deacon, and Rev. Mr. Pardo as sub-deacon. There were also twentyfour acolytes, whose neat surplices, cassocks and birretains added much to the loveliness of the scenc. The "Kyrie" was played and sung with a thrilling effect. After its conclusion followed the magnificent "Gloria," by a grand chorus. The "Qui tollis" of this beautiful composition was rendered by a quartet and chorus, and the "Quonism tu Soius Sanctus" by a solo quariet. At the grand lugue "Cum Sancto Spiritus," the congregation appeared electrified by the effect. The "Credo" opened with a nil chorus, the "Incarnaus est" of which was rendered by Mr. Tamaro, tenor solo, while the other voices came afternately in, making an absolutely striking effect.

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The "Ressurrexit" was performed in a most joyful manner, appropriate to the words, and in a way which was worthy of a Mozart. Then enure at the "Offertory" the beautiful Christmas hymn, "Adeste Fideles," which has been taken from the Gregorian hymn, and arranged for four voices, accompanied by a string quartet in the first verse. The same chorus sung the second verse, the soprano portion of the choir introducing a variation, and the well known vocalist, Miss Teresa Werneke, rendering the solo, with violity accompaniment. The third verse was a baritone solo by Signor Bacelli, with violoncello obligato, and a chorus of soprano, alto and tenor. The effect produced by the readition of this composition was peculiarly grand and entrancing, and especially so when the fourth and last verse was suddenly pitched a third higher for the chorus, band, tympani, cympals and organ. The "Sanctus," as the word implies, was solemnly rendered, after which followed the "Plein sunt Ceit," a beautiful allegro. Then came the "Benedictus," an admirable quartet, which gave a chance to the solo quartet to show forth accurately and impressively their vocal power. This was terminated by such a joyful "hossanua" as made every heart rejoice and remember that it was certainly Caristmas.

The last part of the mass musically illustrated by the choir, orchestra and organist, was the

The last part of the mass musically illustrated by the choir, orchestra and organist, was the "Agnus Dei"—Lamb of God. This is a composi-tion which stands alone in its excellence even tion which stands alone in its excellence even among the compositions of Mozart. "Dona noos pacem"—give us peace—the most solemn part of this appealing ejaculation, was prayeritly and artistically given by Miss Mary Werneke, and concluded with a full chorus. The whole mass was performed without omitting a singe note.

The Rev. F. Trainor. S. J., preacued the sermon on the significance of the great Christian lestival, assuring the courregation at its close that Christ our Lord came on earth to make us all happy, glad and virtuous. Vespers were sung at five o'clock P. M.

ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH.

At St. Alban's church, Forty-seventh street and Lexington avenue yesterday morning the congregation somewhat exceeded in point of numbers the usual attendance. The services, which were of the highest ritualistic order, were conducted by Rev. C. W. Morrill, the rector. The floral decprations, which were jurnished by the ladies of the congregation, were most profuse and had a very wreaths, stars and crosses wrought in white tuberoses, while from the roof of the chancel were hung heavy lestoods of evergreens which aimost conceased the cening. The pulpit and reading desk were also beautifully decked with colored flowers intermingled with evergreens. The lout was one mass of variegated flowers, while on the top was mounted an elegant cross composed of holly and laurel leaves and different colored flowers. The choral services by the calor were excellently rendered and were as ollows:—Processional—flymn 42. First inforit, Pasim 93; Second Intrott, Pasim 8; "Kyrne," "Gloriatibl," Creed, "Sursum Corda," "Agous Det." Sequence—Hymn 43. Anthem—"In the Beginning was the Word," Allen. Post Communion—Hymn 345. Processional—Nunc Dimittis: Peregrine Tone. The sermon was appropriate to the day and was delivered by the rector, who chose for his text the third chapter of St. John and the sixteenth verse—"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." roses, while from the roof of the chancel were hung

THE REDEMPTORIST CHURCH, IN

THIRD STREET. The Redemptorist church, in Third street, was yesterday crowded with immense congregations at every service. The first high mass was celebrated shortly after four o'clock A. M., the celebrant being Rev. Father Holzer, the deacon Rev. Father Preis, the sub-deacon Rev. Father Berger and the master of ceremonies Rev. Father Wirth, who is director of this branch of the Order. The Rev. Father Berger, at the conclusion of the high mass, celebrated three masses successively, this being a privilege peculiar to the festival. These masses naving been ended, the Rev. Father Preis celebrated two masses successively, the first being high mass, and he was followed by the Rev. Father Kleinsedam, who also celebrated two masses. Thus at the principal altar from lour o'clock A. M. a succession of masses was constantly kept up until the grand high mass, which commenced at a quarter past ten. At this service a sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Wirth, who took his ext from the gospel of the day.

The music at the three high masses was very fine, especial preparation naving been made by the organist for the Christmas festival. At the earliest service Weber's mass in G was given with full orchestra, and the effect was superb, the leeting that this was the first worship for the great natal day being evidenced in the devotional aspect of the congregation. At the eight o'clock high mass the music of G. M. Leininger was given, and at the grand high mass beginning at a quarter

past ten Mozart's No. 7 was the selection, the organist, choir and full orchestra exerting themselves to the utmost and achieving a complete success, as was eagerly attested by most competent indges of good music who were among the congregation. In the auternoon, at three o'clock vespers were sung, the music being T. A. Schmidt's, with a tub orchestra; and in the evening, at seven o'clock, "Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament" closed the Caristmas festival, the conir rendering favorite morreaux suitable to the various parts belonging to the service.

The church was not especially decorated all over no evergreen chains connecting the billars, as is sometimes customary on festival occasions, nor was the sanctuary made unusually pleasing with a produsion of flowers. The lights on the high altar, nowever, were numberless, and in their excellent arrangement into custers had a fine effect when seen from the body of the church. The least red the sanctuary was the beautiful crib, which was to be seen on the St. Joseph's altar. This was surrounded with an artistic design of green leaves. The symbols near the crib were the wise men from the East, kneeling beside the child, while figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph shood watening at the head and feet of the iniant Saviour. Thousands of persons visited the church during the day to see the crib and leave a little alms 4 or the poor organs, in whose behalf a receptacle was laid in front of the altar.

ST. IGNATIUS' CHURCH.

St. Ignatius' church yesterday was one mass of green. Crosses and stars and wreaths were hung in every available place. In front of the altar were three arches of green, the centre one ceing surmounted by a large cross. All round the church, in each panel, hung white satin banners, embroidered with mottoes in green and gold. Across the end of the church were the words, . Glory to God in the highest; peace on earth. good will toward men," also embroidered on white satin in green and gold. The altar was trimmed with flowers and made brilliant by the light of many candles.

The services were opened by the boy choir. They commenced singing before they were visible, and entered the church, marching slowly down the side aisle and up the centre one, to the aitar, singing as they went, "Let us now go even unto Bethlenem." They were followed by Dr. Ewer.

The musical programme was a fine one, and rendered entirely by the boy choir under the charge of Choir Master James Maclaury. The programme for the midnight mass and the half-past "Adeste Fidelis:" litany hymn, ancient and modern. Introit, first celebration, ninety-eightn psaim; sec-

"Adeste Fidelis;" litany hymn, ancient and modern. Introit, first celebration, ninety-eightn psalm; socond celebration, eightn psalm. "Kyrie," Daikin; sequence, "Bright, bright in silver light;" "Gioria Tibi," Cutler; "Credo," Nicene; offertory, "The Marvelious Work," 'Hayden; "Sanctus," "Benedictus," Kahlan; hymn of adoration, "Bread of the Worla;" "Agnus Doi," adapted; "Gloria in Excelsis," Gregoriat; "Nunc Dimittis," Recessional, "Hark! the heraid anges sing."

Dr. Ewer said, after the many services held since last night, after the intigues of the night, an unrady able to speak long to you and will not impose a serinon on you; furthermore, I am disnetined, after the admirable discourse of Professor Hall, to say anything that might tend to dim the impression. You could not help being struck with many of his litustrations; his illustrations of Jesus Passing by The Angels
and taking our nature was beautiuil. Suppose he had passed by our nature was beautiuil. Suppose he had passed by our nature and taken the nature of a oruse would we have done as the angels did—announced the fact of his birth with halienings. To-day there is one bassage that Keeps repenting itself in my recollection. "Sir, we would see Jesus." On thursday after Holy Week these words were said; they were said by the Greeks, not the Jews. Jesus was standing in the court of Israel into the court of the Greeks, not the Jews. Jesus was standing afar off said to Philip, "Sir, we would see Jesus," and Philip tood the Lord and the biesed Lord stepped down out of the court of israel into the court of the Greeks, not the world in effect for a thousand years; it was dumb yasrning. They had read the book of the world in effect for a thousand years; it was dumb yasrning. They had read the book of the world in effect to a thousand years; it was dumb yasrning. They had read the book of the world in effect to a thousand years; it was dumb yasrning. They had read the book of the world in effect to a thousand years; it was dumb yasrning. They had read the book o

Incarnation of

"Sir, we would see Jesus," is still the cry of Christians and will be to the end of time, not because Christians do not understand the three mysteries, but for the reason that they do know they yearn for the luture lile because they know what Jesus is. They yearn to behold the beatific vision in heaven. Let us caten the spirit of this jestival and make ourselves one with those who were in Bethlenem eighteen hundred years ago.

## ST. MARK'S CHURCH.

St. Mark's church was crowded yesterday to its utmost capacity by a fashionable congregation to listen to the Christmas sermon by the pastor, Dr. Rylance. He took his text from Micah, v. De little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." The sermon was a most impressive one in every respect, the subject matter being tue birth of the saviour of the world. The minister spoke most feelingly of the birth of the babe in the manger that one day was to be the baviour of mankind, of his trials while on earth, of the good he did, the example he set for us to follow, and the requests He made of us when He took his departure to sit at the right hand of his Heavenly Father. The commands he left us to keep, said the divine, were not hard to keep, and the reward we should reap hereafter was greater than man could conceive. On this blessed day, said the preacher, all should rejoice, because it was the Batal day or him who died on the cross that we might live. On this day let the mean man grow heral, let the poor man take heart and let the contented man grow happier.

The charce was beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens. The chancel and pulpit were trimmed with heavy lestoons of laurel and a large and magnificent star of evergreens was pendad on the wall at the back of the pulpit. The music was most appropriate and embraced the lonowing:—
Opening—"Shout the Glad Tidings"—Wilson; from of old, from everlasting." The sermon was

opening—"Shout the Glad Tidings"—Wilson;
"Venite," chant—Boyce; "Gioria Patri," anthem—
Dr. Clare W. Beames; Te Deum Festival in D
(manuscript)—Dr. Clare W. Beames; Jubilate,
Mendelssohn, E flat.

## CHRIST CHURCH.

The congregation of worshippers at this elegant and spacious Episcopal church, corner of Thirtyfifth street and Fifth avenue, yesterday morning was, if possible, larger and more fashionable than ever. There was no reckless profusion displayed in the decorations, but the simple arrangement of evergreens, which were gracefully festooned from arch to arch, wound around the massive pillars, and disposed like the rays of a pencil of light above the chancel, gave the church a very pleasing appearance.

The only flowers visible were in bouquets upon the artar, and directly above these was suspended a large illuminated star. Christmas trees were placed along the sides of the church.

The sermon was very appropriate to the occa-sion, and had for its subject "The Birth of Christ." The world instinctively celebrates this great birthday, the reverend speaker began, and this instinct always asserts itself. Ever since the world gan be great discoverers and men who have be-

gan be great discoverers and men who have become great in particular ways have had the days of their birth remembered by their country. But to-day, not only one flation, but all the Christian nations, unite in celebrating the birth of the greatest of discoverers—the world's great Deliverer. He called himself the Son of Man.

Of all the birthdays we keep there are none like this, "Go to Betinelem and you shall find a babe wrapped in swadding clothes, lying in a manger." The manger was open to the sky above and bound around by an enclosure. After Joseph and Many had made their way to the ancestraictly every alcove in the inn was occupied, and the only prace left for them was in that open space among the cattle. We can conceive of nothing more abject. Without any help or sympathy to the malded mother Christ was born into the world. And yet on the plains outside the neavens were opened to men watching by their flocks, and when they came to Beinielem heaven's angels were singing, and there was the child in the cattle sned. If we would keep the birthday, therefore, we must go where they went—to the manger. Only to the eye illumined by God's fight did the light from acaven sinne. No wonder they thought it a strange beginning for so grand an end. We do not argue in this day, but we stand around the manger and accept the reality and not the semblance.

The resson of the manger was a sign to us and

the semblance.

The resson of the manger was a sign to us and all the world of what is sacred. He was the onlid of sorrow, toll and pain. Poverty and onenness are not the punishment of God. What seems localiness and shame are not always so in the eyes of God. There is no little wanderer in the street, no ourcast-child in the city but has a divide guard and shield over it. There is not a cradle in any

household but it is blessed by groups of angels and God's love. It is childhood made divine and motherhood sanctified. God's blessing is upon every cradle, sanctifying all family ties and relations. This is the children's day especially, and each child has the light of Christmas upon his face, and that light comes from that humble cradle in Bethlehem.

CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH. This church was beautifully decorated for the Ghristmas services and the attendance was large. The new pastor, Dr. Alger, took his text from Luke i.., 14.—"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." Christ came on earth, said the preacher, to show men the way to heaven, and He did so not so much by what he said but by what He did. His exemple was from His advent peace and good will and it behoved men to pattern after it. It was the great behooved men to pattern after it. It was the great foundation of all Christianity, and those who waiked in the road the pointed out would surely meet him in the kingdom. He had gone to prepare for those who sought after Him with a lowly and contrite heart. This is the birthday of the only and well beloved son of Him from whom all good and perfect gits come, and though men make it a day of leasting let us make it a day of prayer. Let us make God that we have lived to see another birthday of His biessed son.

The music rendered on the occasion was the Anthem Juniate by the organist, Ar. Edward Howe, Christmas Anthem, "And there were Shepherds," David Birck; solo, by Miss Wells, "Gioria in Excelsis" Mozart's twellth mass, and the Lord's Prayer, &c., chanted sotto voce.

#### TRINITY CHAPEL.

Trinity Chapel yesterday morning was exceedingly well attended, in fact it was with difficulty that seats could be furnished to those who entered after the commencement of the services. The floral decorations were simple but effective. The prayer was read by Dr. Oimstead and the lessons by Bishop Tozer. The choir sang the following programme in excellent style:—Processional, "Shout the glad tidings;" Venite, Evater, Psaims, To Trinity psaiter; Service, Gibert, in D; Anthem, "For unto us a child is born," Handel; Niceue Creed, ancient; Hymn, "Hark: the heraid angels sing;" "Gioria in Excelsis," Gibert, in C; "Nine Dimittis," Gilbert, in C; Recessional, "It came upon a midnight cleur." The anthem, "For unto us a child is born." was rendered in a particularly effective manner, as was also the Nicene Creed. The se mon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Swope, who chose for his text II. Corinthians, iv., 9, 10—"Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life siso of Jesus might be made mannest in our mortal flesh." At the close of the discourse the sacrament was partaken of by the majority of the congregation, and floral decorations were simple but effective

ST. ANN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Dachauer's Third Mass, written especially for the dedication of St. Ann's church five years ago, was the musical feature there yesterday. It is a very dramatic and effective work, exceedingly and full of those impressive ensembles that lend such a grandeur to the opera. The soloists were Mile, Henrietta Corradi, soprano, whose sloging of the highly descriptive "Agnus Dei" was characterized by a thoroughly finished and artistic spirit; Mile. Octavie Gomien. contraito, who distinguished herself in singing Nava's "Veni Creator." and Mr. Blum, basso, to wnom was allotted a very beautiful solo, "Benedictus," to which he did ample justice. There was also a well selected chorus, under the direction of the eminent organist Mr. Louis Dachauer. At the offertory the weil known "Ave Maria" by the organist was given in superb style. The musical services at St. Ann's church have long since acquired a high reputation, and nothing was lacking vesterday to do fitting honor to the great lestival. The skill of the organist, the acknowledged talents of als solo vocalists and the light thaning of his chorus gaive effect to every musical work performed. High mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Lynch, with Rev. Father Poole acting as deacon. The church was handsomely decorated and the altars were all ablaze with light. Rev. Father Presson, the pastor, preached an eloquent sermon at the gospel on the preast event of Unristianity, the birth of our Saviour, from which he drew many instructive lessons and exaortations.

CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT. This church, on Madison avenue, was decorated n a very profuse and tasteful manner yesterday. Evergreeus depended from the centre and hung gracefully over on each side of the edifice, forming a series of wreaths of great beauty and effect. The altar was also decorated with simple evergreens, which hid the woodwork almost entirely, The general effect was charming. The attendance

Dr. Tiffany preached the Christmas sermon and took for his subject "The Incarnation of Christ," and alinded to the goodness of the God who would do this great act to save man from the effects of

do this great act to save man from the effects of his sin. He went over briefly the history of Christ's life on earth, and expatiated on the redemption which was wrought for us in this way. The notiness and sanctity which surround the day upon which this great act of the incarnation was wrought is above computation.

The music during the service was very florid and beautind, and was conducted with unusual skill. The following was the programme:—Opening anthem. Chappel: "Hark the Heraid Angels;" Venite, J. Florie, "Gloria," Flagjer: "Fe Denim" (B fai), Thomas; "Juniate," Thomas, hymn 27; "Gloria Tibi," MS; hymn 18; Authem; "And There were Shepherds," Chappel: "Trisagion and Sanctus," Taylor; "Gloria in Excelsis," old. The service was a very long one, and was, on the whole, very beautiful.

# GRACE CHURCH.

The services at this popular and fashionable church yesterday were in the usual elaborate style always shown on Christmas Day. The attendance was, in great part, made up of strangers, the regular pew holders not being on hand in their usual force. Through inefficiency of the attendants a great many people who might have been provided with seats were kept uneasily standing throughout the service.

The decorations of the church were in very good taste. Evergreens in profusion were hung all over the edifice. Along each pillar depended massive rolls of these from the ceiling to the floor. Bunches and branches of leaves were placed at equal distances along the side walls. The most striking point, however, was the decoration of the altar, which was literally buried beneath the evergreens, with here and there a rosette, formed of a huge bouquet, brightening up the effect of

of a huge bouquet, brightening up the effect of the whole. Here and there these souquets were placed all about the altar and puipit.

The music was consistent with the good reputation of the charch in this rezard, though the choir is anything but a strong one just now. Some very ambilious attempts were made. The organ was managed with thorough skill. The musical portion of the service began with an opening anthem from Luke, il., 10, 11—"Benold, I oring you good iddings," a composition of J. Goss. The remainder of the programme was as follows:—"Venite," Fisher; Faalms 18, 45, 85; "Glorias," in F. Berthold Tours; "fe Deum," in B dat, Dudley Buck; "Juoliate Deo," in C. Dudley Buck; Hymn 17, Mendelssohn; "Gloria Tiot;" Anthem, recitative and aria from "Messiah," Haudet, Isaish, vil. 14; xi., 9; Matthew, L. 20—"Benold, a virgin shall conceive." And after the sermon the "Offertors" was sung, with more taste than anything else on the programme.

A short sermon, or rather address, was delivered by the rector, Rev. Dr. Henry Potter, who spoke of the importance of the Christmas in the Christian faith and the beautiful significance of the day. Subsequently a communion service was held.

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH. The services at this church, in 117th street, acsterday, at half-past ten A. M., were of a se and impressive character, the altar being beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens.

Rev. Father O'Keele acted as celebrant and

Rev. Father McGuire delivered an eloquent ser-Rev. Father McCuire delivered an eloquent ser-mon on the gospie of the day, and also a stirring appeal in behalf of the orphans.

The music consisted of Generall's Mass, in G, with Haydn's "Sanctus" and "Agnus" No. 2, exe-cuted in the most artistic manner by the quartet of the church—Mrs. Charles Hamilton, soprane: Miss Agnes Dowdall, also; Mr. M. Donovan, tenor; Mr. Phuip F. Sullivan, buritone—under the direc-tion of the organist, Mr. H. Marum.

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER. The Dominican church, Sixty-fith street and Lexington avenue, presented a brilliant appearance at high mass yesterday. The body of the church was crowded with earnest devotees. On the aitar, which blazed with light, richly mantled ministers and attendant acolytes moved to and fro, while the strains of organ and choir awakened the devotion of the congregation. Haydn's Imperial Mass was rendered in good

Haydn's imperial Mass was rendered in good style by the choir under the direction of the organist, Mr. Hanschel. Miss Louise Morrison Fiset sang the hymn 'o Salutaris Hostra'' to an arm by Verdl. Lambiliotte's Christims Anthem, Pastoris, in G. was also rendered with much effect. Mass was celebrated by Father McKennia, assisted by Fathers Stinger and Deinchan, as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. The sermon was preached by Father Daiey, who chose for his text the first chapter of St. John, first and tenth verses, ending, "He came unto also own and his own received him not," This idea was the prominent one of the dis-

the Church to come and make the acquaintance of Christ, not as the infant God of Bethlenem, but as the universal Saviour, who had on the cross at Calvary expiated the sins of mankind from the beginning of the world.

They had been called upon to contemplate Hisgorious birth, death and resurrection; those three wonders of mercy and of outpotence which had combined to complete the grand tragedy of the God Man's visit to the footstool. That visit, the object of which was the redemption of a lost race, a degenerate race who did not receive or seem to know their God.

The occasion, the preacher said, was one on which the modern prototypes of the Jewsol old would do well to put aside their indifference, and, like the wise men of the East, come to the stable at Bethlehem and praise the new born king.

The conclusion of the sermon was an eloquent exnortation to an exhibiting jubilee at the alivent of the Saviour, the practice of whose teachings was the keystone of true carring happiness.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY. A vast multitude availed themselves of the op. portunity to hear the really excellent music ren dered at the Church of the Holy Trinity yesterday morning. Not a seat remained unoccupied, and many people were compelled to stand in the aisies during the entire service, which was exceedingly lengthy, but highly interesting withal ceedingly lengthy, but highly interesting withal. The church was magnificently decorated with evergreens and rare flowers, and presented a pieture in every way pleasing.

Besides a full and well-trained chorus there were present the following well-known soloists:—Signora Maria Saivitti, soprano; Mrs. J. M. Davidson, contraito; John J. D. Frenor, tenor, and Adolpho Sohst, basso, all under the conductorship of Mr. S. P. Warren.

The services began with Handel's "Hallelnish

services began with Handel's "Hallelujal The services began with handers "malendare Chorust" and was followed by "Venite Exaftemas," Warren: "Gloria Patri," King; "Te Deum Laudamus." Warren: "Jubilate Deo." Mozart: "Hark' the Heraid Angels Sing," Mendelssohn; "Gloria Tibi," Warren: "Portuguese Hymn," and an offertory anthem by Handei.

The sermon was by the rector, Rev. Dr. Tyng, the entire service concluding with the holy communion.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH. St. Bartholomew's church, corner of Madison avenue and Forty-fourth street, contained a large congregation at the services in the forencon. The interior of the church was very sparingly dressed with "Christmas favors," a few embiems and devices around the chancel comprising the only stock and store, but in lieu thereof a very fine

programme of music was given.

Rev. Dr. Cook, the rector, preached from Luke it., 15:—"And it came to pass as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds

gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us." The arrival of the Messiah, he began, had long been the hope of the Jews. But it is seldom that expectations are fully realized. He came to His own and they received Him not.

At the time of His birth shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks, when they were visited by a troop of angels. The heavenly visitants told them of the infant Messiah, and the men determined to verify their declaration. We will consider the means employed to carry out this resolution, and also its effect on the whole of Christendom. The shepherds' faith, before they saw how each part of the promise of the anets was fulfilled, may have been small; but when they bened every particle realized they were convinced of the babe's divine origin. So it is with us. Our religion is a religion of facts. The human mind was never more hemmed in by evidence than it is by the truths of Christianity. Christ's coming brought for the time to elernity.

CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN.
The festivities at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in Forty-fifth street, between Broadway and Eighth avenue, were commenced with the high celebration at midnight, the mass with the high celebration at midnight, the mass being sung by Rev. Father Noyes. In the morning there was a low celebration and prayers. At hall-past ten, at the high celebration, the edifice was crowded to excess. The altar was tastefully decorated with floral designs and the service most schemn and impressive. Rev. Father Brown was the celebrant, the mass performed oning Haydo's imperial Mass No. 3. Professor George H. Prentice presided at the organ, and was supported by full chorus and an orenestral accompaniment. The mass was performed entire, not a single note being omitted. Rev. Father Noyes preached a snort sermon on "Christ in you, the hope of giory."

CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS At the Church of the Holy Innocents, corner of Thirty-seventh street and Broadway, were neld at various times during the morning. At half-past ten solemu high mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Larken, assisted by Rev. Father Galligan. The high altar was brilliantly illumi nated and decorated with offerings of choice ex-

otics.

A scene representing the infant Saviour in His manger at Bethlehem, with miniature augeis hovering over it, the whole surmounted by an antique thatched roof, had been artistically prepared and was viewed by the congregation as they passed by in procession.

Rev. Father Reynolds preached an effective sermon on Jesus, the King of Kings, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

## THE DAY IN THE INSTITUTIONS.

ST. VINCENT'S HOME FOR Christmas was kept bright and early at the St. Vincent's Home for Boys, at No. 53 Warren street. About 250 boys are cared for by this institution under the direction of Father Drumgoole. The boys who had slept in the institution entered the chapel at four in the morning, the sacrament of baptism was administered at a quarter past four and the first mass was celebrated at half-past four A sermon was preached at this mass, and most o the large boys approached hely communion. Two masses followed up to six o'clock, and breakfast was partaken of at seven o'clock. There was a distribution of clothing to the smaller children as eight; and at half-past one was the great and principal feature of the day-namely, the Carist mas dinner-which consisted of turkey, celery, cranbeary sauce, poultry, plum pudding, potatoes, vegetables, fruits, pies, coffee and cakes

potatoes, vegetables, fruits, pies, coffee and cakea. A supper at hall-past seven finished the Christinas celebration and terminated a day long to be remembered by the boys. The Christinas dinner was inruished at the expense of Mr. Dehmis O'Donome, broker, No. 102 Chambers street. About thirty or forty ladies and gentiemen, must of the latter memoers of St. Vincent de Paul's conferences, waited on the children and attended to their wants. Clothing is very much needed for the boys of this home, and cast-of clothing will be thankkully accepted. The Earl of Rossberry's "little bootolack" was inquired after by the Herald Peporter, and was found to be pursuing his studies very satisfactorily at St. Francis Kavier's College, Sixteenth street. THE NEWSBOYS' LODGING HOUSE.

The Newsboys' Lodging House, in New Cham

bers street, one of the institutions of the Children's Ald Society, and which is under the direction of Mr. O'Connor, celebrated Christmas very appropriately yesterday. The boys dined at the aristocratic hour of half-past six o'clock in the evening, in their large dining room, an apartment as spacious as Deimonico's canqueting hall in Fifth avenue. It was decorated with evergreens, bannerets and national flags. About 600 boys sat down to the very substantial repast under the presidency of Mr. Fleiss, wine merchant, No. 46 Broadway, who kindly derayed the expense of the dimer. On the withorawal of the cotth and the introduction of dessert and coffee Senator Couking, Commissioner Bailey, Frank Howe, Colector Arthur and other prominent gentlemen derivered very appropriate addresses. In the intervals of the species the company indused in musical exercises. Indeed, the diuner was in all respects after the manner of a Delmonico danquet. Evening dress did not generally prevail, and wine was not patronized very much; but in many other essential respects the boys did the best they could to initiate the "swells," as they call the gentlemen to whom they sell gewspapers up town. To day the boys who are regularly connected with the home will each receive a pair of shoes, warn socks and two shirts. One of the arrangement of the institution includies a "wash day" on Phursday, and the boys on that day can have then washing done free of charge. As an hinstration of the institution will need enlargement. There are 110 compartments in the safe for the boys savings, but the number of depositors is increasing so fast that the compartments are not adequate. The savings awrings banks, or to assist them when the "go West."

The Home or late wanderers, known as the evening, in their large dining room, an apart ment as spacious as Deimonico's canquet

THE HOWARD MISSION.

The Home for Little Wanderers, known as the Howard Mission, No. 40 New Bowery, was, from early in the morning until the shades of evening yesterday, a scene of exquisite enjoyment for the httle chadren of both sexes. During the day about 600 children were entertained, partaking of a luncheon at nair-past eleven o'clock. Eac also received toys, a package of and the little ones a pair of